

NAME...Ayers.....Alice.....
 (last) (first) (middle)

Biographical Material:

Birthplace....Richburg, New York.....Date...1895-1946.....

Education..New York College of Ceramics at Alfred University.- graduated BS and ...
applied arts

MA Western Reserve - in art

Special Comments.....Elected Fellow (only woman of 28 elected in 1941). of.....
American Ceramic Society.....

Awards and Honors (including others than those received in Cleveland)

see enclosed sheet

Affiliations (artists' societies, etc.)

Womens art club - Ceramic Society - Cleveland Fine Arts Society.....

Where Represented in Permanent Collections (Among private collections include only large and important)

two pieces at Museum

one piece at Main Public Library.....

Exhibitions (list by years)

Large Annual Shows.....Syracuse, 1931-1941, inclusive.....

Cleve., Museum. of. Art. May. 1923-1941. inclusive.....

One Man.....

Special (or Foreign). Contemporary American Ceramic Show sent to Denmark, Sweden, ..
Finland, and England - Golden Gate Exhibit - Robineau (one piece with show for 3 yrs)

Bibliography (Books or articles you have written, or books, bulletins, magazines, catalogues in which you are mentioned).....

Killed in automobile accident late in 1946 - Nov. or Dec.
up-to-date: 1944-45

"May Show" Cleveland, Ohio -

from 1923 to date.

Second Award - 1924 - 1925 - 1928 - 1938

Honorable Mention - 1931 - 1935 - 1939

Third Award 1934 - 1941

Other exhibitions -

W. & J. Albane - New York - August 1931

The Blue Heron - Miami Beach - Jan. 1932

American Ceramic Society - Jan. 1932

Telfair Academy - Savannah, Ga. - Feb. 1932

Robineau Memorial - Syracuse N.Y. May 1933

Exhibition commemorating 50th Anniversary
of Cleveland School of Art - Oct. 1933

Cleveland Craftsmen - Dec. 1933

Chicago Workshops, Inc. May & June 1934

American Federation of Art Travelling Show - June 1935

Ferragil Galleries, New York - June 1935

Robineau Exhibition - Syracuse Oct. 1935

Ruth Coulter Galleries — Nov. 1934 - 1935

Cleveland Teachers Exhibition, The Higbee Co. Feb. 1935

American Federation of Art circulating show — May 1936

National Exhibition of Arts & Crafts —

Rockefeller Centre - New York — May 1936

Centennial Exhibit - Alfred University June 1936

Great Lakes Exposition — August 1936

Robineau Memorial Exhibition — Oct 1936

Contemporary Exhibition of American Arts
and Crafts — invited to Denmark, Sweden
and Finland — Stockholm - Aug. 1936-7

Philadelphia Art Alliance — March 1937

Woman's Art Club - Higbee Co - Nov. 1937

Robineau - Brooks — Dec. 1937

Women's City Club - Cleveland Jan - 1938

Toledo Museum of Art — Feb. 1938

Burth Art Museum - Youngstown Mar. 1938

Whitney Museum of American Art - Oct-Nov. 1937

Represented in Robineau exhibit sent
to Golden Gate Exposition - 1939 - 1940

Robinson Exhibit — Syracuse — Nov - 1939

One piece chosen for circulating show —
National Arts Club — New York — Feb. 1940

Robinson Exhibit — Oct - 1940

Cleveland Teachers Exhibit — Cleveland School of Art
Oct 1940

National Art Week — Nov - 1940

Princeton Art Museum — March 1941

Dayton Art Museum — April 1941

Ogleby Park — W. Va — Aug. & Sept - 1941

Robinson Exhibit — Oct - 1941

National Art Week — Cleveland, O. Nov. 1941

National Art Week — Washington, D.C. Nov. 1941

The Mint Museum — Charlotte N.C. Dec. 1941



MISS ALICE AYARS is shown at work on her pottery wheel, just putting the finishing touch on a piece of pottery which will go into the kiln for firing. Miss Ayars was photographed at work in the Ceramic Center of the Cleveland ~~and~~ schools where she has been in charge of firing and glazing of ceramic art since 1922.

Ceramics Fellowship Winner Tells Of Work With An All Absorbing Art

PROFILE FOR TODAY: She has just received an honor which is coveted by many men. She was recently voted a fellowship in the American Ceramic society at its national convention in Baltimore, Md., this spring. Her name is Alice A. Ayars and she's in charge of firing and glazing in the Ceramics Center in Cleveland, Ohio. When she first went there in 1922, the department was in diapers and housed in a portable building. She smiles as she tells you how she built the new, ultra-modern center a million times in her mind and on blueprints. "We finally outgrew the old building and they tore it down and built the new one adjoining one of the schools!"

The Ceramics Center, she explains, is part of the Cleveland educational system. "The work is brought in from the high schools, the teachers bringing the pupils over," she says. "Then I explain the work and demonstrate the equipment used in it." Her brown eyes light up like a kid as she tells you she "has

other people and to the board of trustees before it could be approved. I couldn't be sure of anything, but when I was requested to 'appear at a special meeting,' I began to suspect I would get it."

Every year she exhibits at the Cleveland Museum of Art exhibition. This is one of the first art exhibits to display crafts as well as art. "In my first exhibit, in 1923," she recalls, "there were only two other pieces of ceramic art exhibited. Now there are two full galleries devoted to arts and crafts other than paintings." She has been a prize winner every year since the first exhibit and many of her things travel all over the country to various showings. Recently she got back a piece she hadn't seen for three years! "It had been to the Golden Gate exhibition," she laughs, "then had gone on to various private and public exhibits. I called it 'Northern Lights.' I name all of my things," she explains, "and this one looked like the aurora borealis, but that name was too complicated!"

Her success in her work is doubt due to an over-

designed, a smaller electric one for testing, and all kinds of the last word in modern ceramic equipment."

Ceramics, I learned, applies to any art which is subjected to a finish by fire. "That includes the beautiful electric range you are using as well as your bath tub!" she laughed. However, Miss Ayars' work deals with the more artistic side of the art. This includes pottery, ceramic sculptures, vases, ornamental tiles, etc. "The art of ceramics," she tells you, "has been in existence since 4000 B. C. Many of the figures found in the tombs in Egypt were ceramics. For centuries it has been practiced by the Chinese and in the East Indian countries. Persian ceramics are noted for the glorious colors in their glazed pieces."

Just how she came to follow such an unusual career for a woman is simple enough. She was raised in Alfred, N. Y., where the New York College of Ceramics is located. She and her brother both graduated from there, but he gave up art for insurance. Miss Ayars, having found what she most enjoyed doing, set about to make her place in the world of ceramic art. Certainly she has succeeded, she created her job, is the only woman holding such a position and is one of six in the society to which she just received her fellowship.

Asked if she knew she was going to get the fellowship before it was presented, she smiles as she replies that she "had a slight hunch about it but was afraid to hope too much." The chairman of the society has told her he was going to present her name for nomination and sent her a paper to fill out. "I filled it out and sent it to him," she says, "but it had to go before several

you open a kiln you get a she tells you. "You never quite sure just what you'll get in color." A little smoke in the oven, it seems, will change color of a blue vase to red, fleck it here and there with the shade. Apropos of that she tells you an amusing story. "In a small Chinese village, the pot must have been having so much trouble with smoke in the kiln she narrates, "Anyhow he got a beautiful color we now know as Chinese red. But it was beautiful to him, not at all. He broke the pieces as fast as they came out of the oven, certain 'evil spirits' had got into it. When that came about, the same thing happened until finally someone has sense enough to realize the beauty of the color. When that came about, he stopped breaking the pieces and so we have Chinese red."

Miss Ayars, who is visiting here with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. E. W. Ayars of Cocon Grove, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and her brother, Erling Ayars of South Miami, is now going into experiments with a new glazing clay and hopes to have something to show in the next Cleveland exhibition.—E. M. S.

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